

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application with all claims being rejected. Claims 1, 16, 25 and 26 have been amended to more clearly recite the present invention, and in particular, Claims 1, 16, 25 and 26 have been amended to more clearly recite the extended user-interface element.

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 9-11, and 15-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,466,971 (Humpleman). Claims 3, 7-8, 12-14, and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Humpleman.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the extended user-interface as recited in the claims of the present invention is disclosed by Humpleman. The Examiner further states that “the user interface of the client device is extended by the downloaded GUI page. The download [sic] GUI page extends the capability of the client interface to interact with services in the network.” This is contrary to the present invention which provides an extended user-interface to a device with a limited user-interface (i.e., the device which can be considered the server rather than a client device). For example, a first device, e.g., a CD player, having a limited user-interface such as a text-only interface and a short range wireless connection, can use a user-interface of a second device such as a PDA (personal digital assistant), which provides a superior graphics-capable user-interface. Moreover, an optional third device (e.g., a mobile telephone) having a user interface with additional or different inputs (e.g., a microphone) can be used to provide its microphone input to the first device so that voice commands can be used to control the first device, which has a limited user-interface not including a microphone. Likewise, other devices having superior user interfaces can be used either alone, or in combination with each other, as desired, to provide their superior user-interface to a device with a limited user-interface.

Moreover, unlike the “Home Network” as taught by Humpleman, the present invention is directed to forming small ad-hoc groupings of fixed devices away from a fixed network

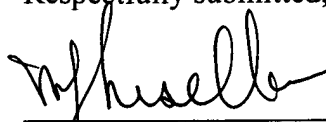
infrastructure. For example, an individual using a device having a superior user-interface can automatically log in to a soda vending machine having a limited user-interface and being located in a parking lot of a gas station in Texas, and command the machine to vend a can of soda. This individual can then drive several thousand miles to New York, and using the same device having a superior user-interface, automatically log in to a gasoline-station pump having a limited user-interface, and command the pump to pump a desired amount of gasoline to fill the individual's car.

Unlike the present invention, Humpleman is directed to a method and system for device-to-device command and control in a network. Moreover, Humpleman teaches "as defined herein, each server device 14 provides a service for the user, except control user interface, and each client device 12 provides control user interface for user interaction with the network. 10. As such, only client devices 12 interact directly with users, and server devices 14 interact only with client devices 12 and other server devices 14." (Column 5, Lines 28-35) Humpleman does not disclose "providing an extended user-interface on the at least one second device, the extended user interface having more extensive capabilities than the capabilities of the limited user-interface of the at least one first device, the extended user-interface utilizing the transmitted limited user-interface information and comprising extended functions so as to extend the capabilities of the limited user-interface" as recited in Claim 1, or of providing an "extended user-interface having more extensive capabilities than the capabilities of the limited user-interface of the at least one first device," the "extended user-interface utilizing" the "limited user-interface information and comprising extended functions so as to extend the capabilities of the limited user-interface" as recited in each of Claims 16, 24 and 25.

It is thus respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 USC §102(a) and 35 USC §103(a) be withdrawn and Claims 1, 16, 25, and 26 as amended be allowed. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-15 and 17-24 it is respectfully submitted that they are allowable by virtue of their dependencies on independent Claims 1 and 16.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims of the application as presented herein are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Musella

Reg. No. 39,310

Attorney for Applicants

DILWORTH & BARRESE, LLP

333 Earle Ovington Blvd.

Uniondale, New York 11553

Tel: (516) 228-8484